

TRANSLATION

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference W1.2067PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/EP2004/052525	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 13.10.2004	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 14.10.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B65H29/58, B65H29/40, B41F13/54		
Applicant KOENIG & BAUER AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT		

1.	This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2.	This REPORT consists of a total of <u>4</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.
3.	This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising: a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of <u>7</u> sheets, as follows: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).
4.	This report contains indications relating to the following items: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/052525

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 3-10 as originally filed/furnished
- pages* 1, 2, 2a received by this Authority on 26.02.2005 with letter of 22.02.2005
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* 1-20 received by this Authority on 26.02.2005 with letter of 22.02.2005
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1/1 as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/052525

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	1-20	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-20	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-20	YES
	Claims		NO
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)			
Reference is made to the following documents:			
D1: US-A-5 236 188 (BRETON ET AL) 17 August 1993 (1993-08-17)			
D2: FR-A-2 760 733 (C.P. BOURG SA) 18 September 1998 (1998-09-18).			
<p>Document D1 discloses (the references between parentheses relate to D1) a device for delivering flat objects, having a conveyor section (1) for conveying a stream of flat objects (2) to be delivered, and a plurality N of fan wheels (9) each having at least one compartment delimited by fan blades for taking up an object (2) from the conveyor section (1) and delivering the object (2) to a delivery module (30, 31, 32), wherein the fan wheels (9) which are disposed one after each other along the conveyor section and touch the conveyor belt section (1) can each be rotated relative to each other with a phase shift which is such that of N objects (2) delivered one after the other along the conveyor section (1) each one enters a different fan wheel compartment (9) (see figure 3), and wherein the number N of the fan wheels (9) is a whole number and larger than or equal to 3, and wherein</p>			

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/052525

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
-----------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

the conveyor section (1) has transport belts.

The present independent claim 1 therefore differs from document D1 in that every fan wheel has less than 5 fan compartments and that a tip of at least one fan intersects the conveyor section formed by the transport belts, while the compartment formed by the fan blades adjoins the conveyor section.

The problem to be solved is therefore that of designing a simple, compact and efficient conveyor section in such a way that the objects can be separated from each other easily and continuously, without machine pulses.

Although blade wheels with less than 5 blades are known from the prior art (see, for example, document D2), the prior art does not suggest to a person skilled in the art the use of three such blade wheels in a conveyor section having transport belts. It is further noted that none of the documents discloses a device without a switch, as described in the characterizing part of claim 1.

Consequently, the present claim 1 and claims 2 to 20, which are dependent thereon, appear to be novel and inventive (PCT Article 33(2) and (3)).